

Village answers call for tornado response help

When the call went out for help after a late-season tornado swept across downstate Washington in November, Oak Park was among the first to respond. Foresters Dan Bartl and Ron Schwab and mechanics Charles “Rusty” Miller and



Dan Bartl and Ron Schwab

Tom Glenn joined responders from across Illinois who rushed to the small town near Peoria to help clean up the devastation the powerful twister had left behind.

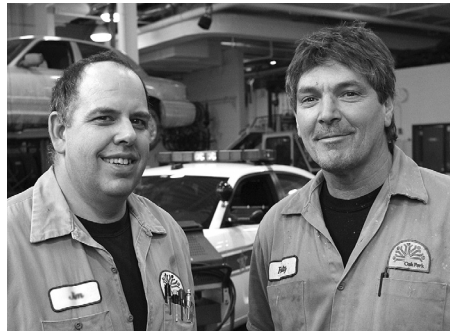
Bartl and Schwab brought along Oak Park’s specialized log loading truck to help remove debris, while Glenn and Miller were there to ensure the heavy equipment operated around the clock.

for help issued through the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). This state-wide aid network ensures participating municipalities can rely on each other when emergency response needs exceed a community’s resources.

Under the terms of the mutual aid agreement, member communities provide equipment and personnel for up to five days, while the community requesting assistance provides meals, lodging and fuel.

As a member of the IPWMAN, should Oak Park experience a major emergency, the Village could call on other communities to provide similar support.

Once safely back in Oak Park, the Public Works crew shared a similar view on the situation in Washington — neither video nor photographs could adequately capture just how bad conditions were in the community. All were glad to have been able to help in the cleanup effort.



Tom Glenn and Rusty Miller



Young bicyclists now required to wear helmets

Following a recommendation from the Oak Park Board of Health, the Village now requires bicyclists under age 17 to wear a helmet. Enforcement will focus on education rather than punishment. However, parents of repeat offenders could face a \$25 fine or be required to do community service. The helmet requirement grew from months of study by the Board of Health, whose volunteer membership includes health care professionals. In making their recommendation for the new local law, Board of Health members presented information from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration about injuries and deaths caused by bicyclists who have accidents while riding without a helmet. The Health Department has begun working on bicycle safety educational programs aimed at schools and investigating partnerships with local organizations that provide helmets. For more information on the new helmet requirement, call 708.358.5480 or email health@oak-park.us.

Overnight parking pass program to expand

Oak Parkers soon will be able to request three free passes each month to park overnight on the street and purchase as many as seven passes per month for \$7 each – per vehicle. In addition to increasing the number of available overnight parking passes, an online pass request process also will be offered. The new program is expected to roll out in March. More details will be provided as the rollout of the new program nears. For more information on parking in Oak Park, visit www.oak-park.us/parking.

Concealed-carry law becomes effective

Local authority over firearms officially ended on Jan. 1 as state concealed-carry legislation went into effect.

Under the new Firearm Concealed Carry Act, the Illinois State Police will issue licenses to individuals who qualify under the legislation to carry concealed firearms. The State Police also are required to maintain a database of licenses and applications that can be accessed by local law enforcement agencies.



The first licenses are expected to be issued in April.

With limited exceptions, carrying a concealed firearm is prohibited in public buildings and gatherings, including schools, parks, playgrounds and government buildings such as Village Hall.

The law also specifically prohibits concealed firearms in establishments

where more than 50 percent of gross receipts are from alcohol sales.

In addition, single-family homeowners may prohibit people from entering their property with a concealed firearm, and any business owner who posts a sign approved by the State Police may prohibit concealed firearms on his or her premises.

Currently, Oak Park Police are being trained on appropriate enforcement of the new law, given its potential effect on officer safety. Police also are planning to reach out to local business operators and others needing to know how best to handle situations where someone is suspected of carrying a concealed firearm in a prohibited location.

To help interested merchants be prepared by the time licenses are issued, the Village is planning to provide state-approved door decals that let arriving customers know that concealed firearms are prohibited on the premises.

Illinois was the last state to allow concealed carry.

Drivers prohibited from using cell phones

Unless you are using a hands-free device, talking on a cell phone while driving now is illegal in Illinois. Effective Jan. 1, police can stop and ticket drivers using a hand-held cell phone anywhere in the state. Illinois was the 12th state in the country and first in the Midwest to adopt a ban on using a hand-held cell phone while driving. Fines start at \$75. Illinois already prohibits texting while driving and Chicago has had a ban similar to the new state law on the books for some time. A companion law also increased penalties for drivers who use a cell phone or other electronic device and injure or kill others in crashes. Distracted motorists who harm other drivers now face fines up to \$2,500 and a year of jail time. Drivers involved in fatal accidents could be fined \$25,000 and face up to three years in jail. With research contending that all cell phone use is equally distracting once a conversation begins, Oak Park Police are urging motorists to put their devices aside while driving. For more information on the dangers of distracted driving, call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.



17-year-olds eligible to register and vote

Legislation that lowered Illinois' voting age to 17 for primary elections went into effect on Jan. 1. Illinoisans born on or before Nov. 4, 1996 can register and vote in the March 18 Primary Election because they will turn 18 by the Nov. 4 General election. The deadline to register to vote in the primary election is Tues., Feb. 18. Voter registration is offered from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. Voter registration also is available at Oak Park Township, 105 S. Oak Park Ave. Registration requires two types of identification, at least one with the current address. A driver's license or picture ID is preferred, along with an additional item such as a lease or utility bill. Visit www.voterinfonet.com to learn more about voting, verify voter registration, identify polling places and review candidates by ballot. For information about registering in Oak Park, call 708.358.5670 or email clerk@oak-park.us.

Parkway tree trimming begins

Parkway tree trimming is scheduled for early January to mid-March, weather permitting. Trees will be trimmed between Chicago Avenue and



Division Street from East Avenue to Harlem Avenue, and between Division Street and North Avenue from Austin Boulevard to Harlem Avenue. Village crews will prune parkway trees up to 10 inches in diameter, while Winkler Tree Service, working under Forestry Division supervision, will prune larger trees. About 4,500 trees are scheduled to be trimmed. For more information about tree pruning, replacement and removal, or questions about general tree health, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Recycle Holiday Lights

The Village has partnered with Vintage Tech Recyclers to host a holiday light drop-off box at the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd., through January. Mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope and LED lights, as well as extension cords, are acceptable. Items may be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Holiday tree pick up scheduled

Holiday trees will be picked up on regular trash and recycling collection days during the weeks of January 6 and 13. Please follow these guidelines:

- Place trees in the regular collection area next to the refuse cart – only residents with no alley should put trees at the curb.
- Remove all tinsel, decorations and stands.
- Do not put tree in plastic disposal bag.
- Place wreaths and garlands in the refuse cart – they are held together with wire and not recyclable.

For more information call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us.

Park District News

Carroll Park community meeting

– A community meeting to review the Carroll Park master plan is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tues. Jan. 7 at Carroll Center, 1125 S. Kenilworth Ave. Residents are invited to provide input regarding future park improvements. Visit www.pdop.org for more details.

Winter Fest – Oak Parkers are invited to celebrate winter with a snowman hunt, ice games, ice skating and snow drawing at the Park District of Oak Park's Winter Fest. The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sat. Feb. 1 in Austin Gardens, 167 Forest Ave. Admission is free and skate rental is \$1. Visit www.pdop.org for more information.



January at the Conservatory

Dig For Dinner – The topic of January's free Saturday exploration station will be roots, the most overlooked but essential part of plants. From radishes to potatoes, docents will guide participants through interactive displays and games as they examine the roles plant roots play in diets. The program is from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information call 708.725.2400 or visit www.fopcon.org.

Sunday tour – The Jan. 12 Sunday tour will feature poinsettias, paperwhites and amaryllis. Docents will guide participants as they learn more about these seasonal flowers and other plants in the Conservatory. The one-hour tour begins at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children. Advance registration is suggested. To reserve a space, call 708.725.2400.

Martin Luther King Day – The Conservatory will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Martin Luther King Day, Mon., Jan. 20.

Volunteers needed – The Conservatory is looking for a range of volunteers to share their enthusiasm and knowledge with visitors. Volunteers are needed to serve as tour docents and interpreters, as well as to deliver interactive exploration kits to local schools. Time commitments vary. For more information on volunteering call 708.725.2460 or email coordinator@fopcon.org.

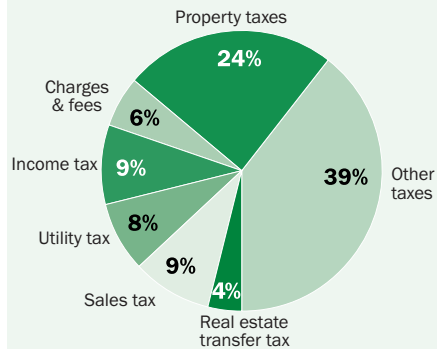
The Oak Park Conservatory is located at 615 Garfield St. For more information on these and other programs, call 708.725.2400 or visit www.oakparkconservatory.org.

Forecast key to planning parking when it snows

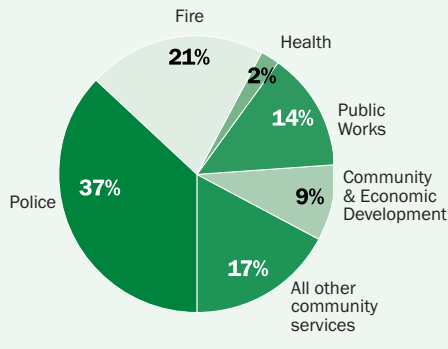
The Village has specific rules that govern parking when it snows – rules that are enforced seven days a week, including holidays. Residents are urged to monitor local forecasts and plan accordingly. When a snow emergency is declared by the Public Works Department, all parking is prohibited on the main streets posted as snow routes. Parking on other streets is restricted to one side from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. in residential areas and from midnight to 8 a.m. in designated commercial districts, the side determined by the odd/even date. To find out if snow-related parking restrictions are in effect, call 708.358.SNOW (708.358.7669) for a recorded message. Cable television subscribers can tune into VOP-TV, broadcast on Comcast channel 6 and AT&T channel 99. Residents who sign up at www.oak-park.us/notifyme will be alerted. The snow emergency parking rules and a list of frequently asked questions also are posted at www.oak-park.us/parking.

2014 Village budget at a glance

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



WHERE THE MONEY GOES



HOW PROPERTY TAXES ARE DISTRIBUTED

Entity	Percentage
Elementary School District 97	34.63%
High School District 200	28.04%
Other	1.82%
Village of Oak Park	13.48%
Library	5.53%
Park District	4.99%
Cook County	4.58%
Water Reclamation District	3.19%
Triton College	2.32%
Township	1.41%



New law limits free parking for persons with disabilities

Effective Jan. 1, a disability parking placard will no longer automatically qualify for meter-exempt parking. Only individuals with a specific meter-exempt permanent placard will not have to pay parking meter fees. These placards are issued to persons with permanent disabilities whose physician-certified impairments make it difficult to access a parking meter. The authorized holder is exempt from parking meter fees and time limitations at parking meters that exceed a 30-minute time limit. An individual with a disability license plate still will need an exempt placard to have meter fees waived. Other types of placards, including temporary and organizational placards, are not exempt from meter fees, but allow parking in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities. For more information, contact the Illinois Secretary of State at 217.782.2709 or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Prescription drug disposal offered



Prescription drug collection is available in the lobby of the Police Department at Village Hall, 123 Madison St. A secure drug collection container, which functions like a postal box, was purchased using a grant from the Illinois EPA. The box can hold up to 50 pounds of material. Needles or other medical waste are not accepted. Police personnel dispose of the drugs in accordance with established procedures. Safe disposal of drugs is becoming increasingly important, as trace residues of some medications can turn up in the water supply from flushing of unwanted prescription drugs. For more information on the drug collection service call 708.386.3800 or email police@oak-park.us.

Clip and Save

Who to Call

Dial Direct (area code 708)

Village Hall	oak-park.us
TTY	711
Adjudication	358.5479
Building and Property Standards	358.5430
Schedule an inspection	option 1
Review status check	option 2
Report property condition	option 3
Speak with an inspector	option 4
Community Planning	358.5420
Historic Preservation	358.5417
Zoning	358.5449
Business Services	358.5648
Housing	358.5410
Community Relations	358.5405
Graffiti Hotline	358.5429
Neighborhood Programs	358.5405
Finance	358.5460
Utility Billing Inquiries	358.5478
Fire (nonemergency)	358.5600
Human Resources	358.5650
Job Hotline	358.5650
Police (nonemergency)	386.3800
Crime Tip Hotline	434.1636
Public Health	358.5480
Animal Control	358.5680
Public Works	358.5700
Parking	358.7275
Day Parking Passes	option 3
Extended Pass	option 4
Night Parking Pass	option 2
Parking Permits	option 5
Snow Hotline	option 1
Vehicle Stickers	option 5
Village Board	358.5784
Village Clerk	358.5670
Village Manager's Office	358.5770

EMERGENCIES 911

Park District	www.pdop.org
Administration	725.2017
Customer Service	383.0002
Building & Grounds	725.2050
Business Operations	725.2015

Public Library	www.oppl.org
Main Library	383.8200
Maze Branch	386.4751
Dole Branch	386.9032

School District 97	www.op97.org
Administration	524.3000

School District 200	www.oprfhs.org
Administration	434.3107

Township	www.oakparktownship.org
Senior Services	383.8060
Youth Services	445.2727
General Assistance	383.8005
Assessor Services	383.8005

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CPR classes offered

The Oak Park Fire Department offers a variety of life-saving classes including CPR and training in how to use an automated external defibrillator, or AED. Classes are held from 6 – 10 p.m. at the Fire Department's certified American Heart Association community training center in the main station, 100 N. Euclid Ave. All courses are taught by an AHA-certified instructor. Classes are \$25 for Oak Park residents and \$50 for nonresidents, plus a \$12 textbook fee. The healthcare provider course is \$40 for residents and \$60 for non-residents, plus a \$12 textbook fee if required. Payment must be made by check, money order or cash in exact amount. In-person registration is required. Class size is limited to eight students for infant/child classes and nine students for all other classes. The 2014 class schedule is posted at www.oak-park.us/fire. For more details, call 708.358.5605 or email cpr@oak-park.us.

Pay water bill online

Property owners can pay their water bills electronically, either by using a credit card online, or setting up an automatic debit from a checking, savings or credit card account. Property owners also can go paperless by signing up to receive bills via email. In addition to water, the quarterly bill includes charges for sewer, garbage disposal and recycling. For more information, call 708.358.5478 or email waterbilling@oak-park.us.

Township News

Annual report available – Oak Park Township accomplishments and finances for April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013 are available for citizen review at oakparktownship.org. Highlights for the year include:

- **New Senior Services facility** opened to provide nutrition, transportation and other support to help senior citizens maintain their independence.
- **Youth Services introduced FACE IT**, a program to guide youth away from alcohol and drug use through education in a supportive group setting.
- **Financial and job search assistance** declined from the 2011–12 high to less than 100 per month due to improved post-recession employment opportunities.

Innovation award – The Township Officials of Illinois awarded its 2013 Innovative Senior Program Award to Oak Park Township for the book *SPREAD*, an intergenerational effort to preserve the memories and stories of seniors gathered at the Townships' daily lunch program. Created under the guidance of DePaul College Professor Jim Duignan and students from Oak Park and River Forest High School, interviews were transcribed into an anthology of stories. Copies of the book are available for review at the Senior Services center, 130 S. Oak Park Ave. Call 708.383.8060 or visit oakparktownship.org for more information.

Warming centers open

Warming centers are open from 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. at West Suburban Medical Center, Erie Street at Austin Boulevard, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rush Oak Park Hospital, 500 S. Maple Ave. Hours may be extended when weather conditions warrant. To find out if the warming center is open after hours, call West Suburban Hospital at 708.763.6747 or Rush Oak Park Hospital at 708.660.6000. If transportation is needed, call the Oak Park Police Department's non-emergency number 708.386.3800. Village Hall, 123 Madison St., also is a warming center from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Volunteers needed for A Day in Our Village

June may seem like a long way from January, but planning already is well underway for the 41st annual *A Day in Our Village*, Oak Park's annual festival celebrating diversity and community involvement. This year's event is scheduled for Sun., June 1. A variety of volunteers are needed to help promote and staff the event, which includes activity booths representing Oak Park civic, cultural, social service, educational, religious and business organizations, as well as demonstrations, entertainment and food provided by local restaurants. Anyone interested in volunteering – or more information – is urged to call 708.358.5407 or email community@oak-park.us.



Sidewalk shoveling required

Property owners who shovel their sidewalks are doing more than making it safer for pedestrians of all ages – they also are complying with the law. Village ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from the public sidewalk within 24 hours following any snow, sleet or freezing rain. Being a good neighbor is important, too, so property owners are urged to help those who may need help clearing a sidewalk. For more information on the shoveling requirement or help resources, call 708.358.5700 or email publicworks@oakpark.us.



Village of Oak Park
Village Hall
123 Madison Street
Oak Park, Illinois 60302-4272



Village President Anan Abu-Taleb

Trustees

Peter Barber
Glenn Brewer
Adam Salzman
Ray Johnson
Bob Tucker

Village Clerk Teresa Powell
Village Manager Cara Pavlicek

Residential Customer Local
Oak Park, Illinois

Postal Carrier
Pre-Sort

Permit No. 26
Oak Park, IL
PAID
U.S. Postage
Standard
Presort

New director to lead re-organized development department



A veteran public servant with two decades of experience in law, housing and development grants has been tapped to head up a newly re-organized department to deliver business development and customer services. Tammie Grossman will become director of the Community & Economic Development Department on Jan. 6. An Oak Park resident for more than 15 years, she served as manager of the Village's Housing and Community Development Block Grant programs and interim director of human resources. Grossman's appointment came as the Village restructures its building, business

services, housing and planning operations into a single department to streamline and improve customer services. The new position will serve as the primary point of contact for all development efforts, and Grossman will be the liaison between Village Hall and the development community. The Village Board likely will rename the department, but duties will remain focused on serving Oak Park's development and business community. Grossman, who has a law degree from DePaul University and a political science degree from Northern Illinois University, was selected from a pool of more than 100 candidates. During her five years at the Village, Grossman's accomplishments included a complete transformation of the housing department refocusing efforts on its core mission and securing outside funding for new programs. She also spearheaded the creation of the West Cook County Housing Collaborative, which has secured more than \$14 million for Oak Park and nearby communities. Grossman took over supervision of the Village's CDBG program in 2012 and served as interim HR director following the retirement of its previous director in July 2013. Before joining the Village, Grossman worked as an attorney in housing and urban development and served as executive director of Housing Action Illinois. For more information call 708.358.5770 or email village@oak-park.us.

Make multi-family housing smoke-free

Property managers, owners and condo boards interested in creating smoke-free buildings can find help from the Oak Park Department of Public Health. Local public health officials have created a range of materials on how to transition to a smoke-free property, including sample letters for tenants and lease addendums. No-smoking policies encourage healthier living and a safer environment, help make the building more durable, reduce operating costs and improve air quality. For more information call 708.358.5485 or email health@oak-park.us.

Free quit smoking help available

Residents age 18 and older are eligible for free nicotine replacement patches through the Illinois Department of Public Health. Call the Illinois Quitline



866.784.8937 to register. Information also is posted at www.quityes.org. Smoking is prohibited in most public places in the Village. To file a complaint about a violation of the Village's Clean Indoor Air Act, email health@oak-park.us or call 708.358.5489.